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## P R E F A C E.

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THE PORTRAIT prefixed to the present Volume is that of CALEB WHITEFOORD, Esq. late a VICE PRESIDENT of the Society ; it is beautifully engraved by Mr. Holl, from an original painting by Stuart.

Mr. WHITEFOORD was one of the oldest contributors to the Society ; he was elected a Member in the year 1762, a Chairman of the POLITE ARTS in 1786, and one of their VICE PRESIDENTS in the year 1800.

The great attention which he always paid to the interests of the Society, and his active services, naturally claim a more particular account of him than is usually given in our Preface on similar occasions, and we doubt not of the following sketch being very acceptable to our readers.

**CALEB WHITEFOORD**, Esq. born at Edinburgh in the year 1734, was the only son of Charles Whitefoord, of Ayreshire, formerly Colonel of the Fifth Regiment of Foot. At an early age he was placed in the school of Mr. Mundell, and afterwards completed his education at the University of Edinburgh, where he made so great a proficiency in classical knowledge, that his father intended him for the Church; but finding his son had strong objections, he brought him to London, and placed him in the counting-house of his friend Archibald Stewart, Esq. M. P. an eminent wine-merchant in York-buildings, where he remained four years; he then went to France, where he continued two years, till he became of age; and returning to London, commenced business, by entering into partnership with Mr. Thomas Brown, of Craven-street, in the Strand.

Here the celebrated Doctor Benjamin Franklin, being his nearest neighbour, and Mr. **WHITEFOORD** being eager in the pursuit of knowledge, a friendly intercourse soon commenced, which continued throughout life.

In the year 1782, Lord Shelburne became Minister, and being determined to put an end to the American War, **Mr. WHITEFOORD** was selected as a proper person to be sent to meet Dr. Franklin at Paris, to negotiate the Preliminary Treaty of Peace with America. In this business he was employed during the greatest part of that year; and having succeeded

## PREFACE.

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succeeded in his object, His Majesty for that service was pleased to grant him a pension.

Possessed of a considerable share of wit, humour, and learning, Mr. WHITEFOORD lived in habits of intimacy with the greatest geniuses of the age. He was a Member of the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh; the Society of Antiquaries; the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia; and the Arcadian Society of Rome; and one of the VICE PRESIDENTS of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, of which he had been a Member 48 years.

In his younger years Mr. WHITEFOORD wrote many essays, poems, and epigrams, most of which he sent to the Printer of the Public Advertiser, Mr. H. S. Woodfall, for whom he had a great esteem. He much improved, if he was not the original inventor, of Cross-readings—Ship News Extraordinary—Errors of the Press—Female Administration, &c. &c. under the signature of *Papyrius Cursor*;—several of which pieces are collected in Debrett's Foundling Hospital for Wit.

His political bias never interfered with his literary friendships, and it was truly observed by Dr. Adam Smith, that although the Junto of Wits and Authors hated one another heartily, they had all a sincere regard for Mr. WHITE-

**FOORD**, who by his conciliatory manners and happy adaptation of circumstances, kept his circle together in amity and good humour.

Mr. WHITEFOORD died, after a short illness, in February, 1810, in the 77th year of his age.

This hasty sketch cannot be better closed, than by the characteristic Epitaph, designed for him in the supplementary lines to the fourth and subsequent editions of Dr. Goldsmith's poem, called Retaliation.

Here WHITEFOORD reclines, and deny it who can,  
 Tho' he merrily lived, he is now a *grave* man !  
 Rare compound of oddity, frolic and fun,  
 Who relish'd a joke, and rejoic'd in a pun ;  
 Whose temper was gen'rous, open, sincere,  
 A stranger to flattery, a stranger to fear ;  
 Who scatter'd around wit and humour at will,  
 Whose daily *bons mots* half a column might fill.  
 A Scotchman from pride and from prejudice free,  
 A Scholar, yet surely no pedant was he.  
 What pity, alas ! that so lib'ral a mind  
 Should so long be to Newspaper Essays confined ;  
 Who perhaps to the summit of science might soar,  
 Yet content if the table he set on a roar ;  
 Whose talents to fill any station were fit,  
 Yet happy if Woodfall confess'd him a Wit.

Ye Newspaper witlings, ye pert scribb'ling folks,  
Who copied his squibs, and re-echoed his jokes.  
Ye tame imitators, ye servile herd, come,  
Still follow your Master and visit his tomb ;  
To deck it bring with you festoons of the vine,  
And copious libations bestow on his shrine ;  
Then strew all around it (you can do no less)  
Cross readings, Ship News, and Mistakes of the Press.  
Merry WHITFOORD farewell, for thy sake I admit  
That a Scot may have humour, I'd almost said wit ;  
This debt to thy memory I cannot refuse,  
Thou best humour'd man, with the worst humour'd muse.

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WE shall now proceed to notice, in our usual manner, the contents of the present Volume, commencing with that very important class, Agriculture, which has ever occupied the first place in the annals of the Society.

The great exertions made by Dr. A. Bain, in forming Plantations at Heffleton, in Dorsetshire, cannot fail to afford very great satisfaction to every observer of them ; the plantations for which he was rewarded a few years ago by the Society, are in a most flourishing state. The beauty and luxuriance of his Pinasters, appear to bid defiance to the stormy winds to which his estate is exposed from the sea ; and shew the propriety of planting this valuable timber tree,

not only on account of its own merit, but also as a barrier and protection to other timber-trees, which flourish behind its cover.

Few plantations in the kingdom exhibit so much taste and judgement in their formation, and it is perhaps impossible that land of so poor a quality could be more usefully and advantageously employed. His late plantations, rewarded the present year, we believe include the whole of the waste land in his possession on that estate. It would be of great service to the Public, if the comparative growths of trees were more generally stated to the Society, in the manner noted in Dr. Bain's communication.

The late H. Andrews, Esq. of Wakefield, being very anxious to obtain one of the Society's honorary Rewards, the Gold Medal was adjudged to him for his plantations of Oaks, which he had judiciously introduced amongst his extensive plantations. Death snatched the honour from him at the moment it was within his grasp, but the Society liberally directed their Gold Medal to be presented to his daughters.

The great value of Larch Trees as timber, is too well known to require any illustration, and we have the satisfaction to state, that since January 1808, 684,560 Larches have been planted by William Congreve, Esq. for which he

has received the Gold Medal, being the second Reward for Plantations conferred upon him by the Society.

Though fortune has not enabled Mr. Henry Cowlishaw to form plantations to an equal extent with men of greater opulence, his plantation of 75,000 Larches affords an example of exertion and industry too great to be overlooked by the Society.

The draining of wet land, the conveyance of water under ground, the improvement of durability in buildings, and preventing the waste of bricks, have engaged the attention of John Stephens, Esq. of Reading, who by a very cheap plan, hath contributed much to the purposes above-mentioned.

In our variable climate, great mischief frequently arises from bad and rainy weather at the time of harvest, and the Society have taken considerable pains to produce to the public, some mode by which such losses could be obviated. A very simple and ingenious contrivance, invented by William Jones, Esq. secures the sheaves of corn from injury when obliged to be cut in wet weather, and prevented considerable injury which he must otherwise have inevitably sustained, both in his corn and other crops.

To

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To Mr. Charles Waistell the Public are much indebted for many valuable papers in the Transactions of the Society, on the growth of timber, its value at different distant periods, &c.; the ingenious instrument he has now produced for the purpose of dibbling acorns, is well calculated for that useful purpose.

The culture and preparation of Hemp in England has been hitherto confined within so very narrow a compass, that it became desirable that the process should be more generally known. The communication of H. B. Way, Esq. of Bridport Harbour, will doubtless contribute to this effect, and to render us more independent of foreign powers for an article so essentially necessary for our Navy. The remarks which this gentleman has also furnished on the culture of Sea-cale, will prove that this excellent vegetable, which has only been considered frequently as an article of luxury, does not require the expence hitherto laid out on its culture, but may be advantageously cultivated on land applicable to few other purposes, and is even spontaneously produced on the sea cliffs.

In the class of Chemistry, H. B. Way, Esq. has shewn the advantages arising from attention and experiment, in opposition to vulgar prejudice; it had been supposed that sea sand was in no place applicable to any advantageous mixture with lime for plaster, but the exposure of a Stucco of this nature

nature for nearly seven years, close to the sea at Bridport Harbour, in a situation open in the greatest degree to sea winds and storms, is a fact which must satisfactorily prove to any observer, that a plaster composed of these materials is capable of being safely applied on the exterior of buildings, and to shew no signs of damp on the papers or walls within.

An extensive list of the Rewards bestowed by the Society with a view to the Encouragement of the Polite Arts, is shewn at page 23 of the present volume, describing the names and addresses of the claimants, and the particular subjects for which the Premiums and Bounties have been given this Session.

Under the Class of Manufactures, Mr. Edward Smith, of Brentwood, will be found to have extended his unremitting endeavours for the service of the Poor, and for rendering useful a vegetable hitherto looked upon as a noxious weed. The fibres which he has sent as specimens produced from the nettle, are not inferior in quality, in any respect, to those of the best hemp and flax.

The Tartan or Plaid Hose, which are in high estimation in North Britain, have hitherto been tedious and expensive to weave; Mr. J. Robertson has contrived an apparatus, by which not only this business can be better effected, but improvements

provements will arise from it in the manufacture of other articles.

Inventions and improvements in the various branches of Mechanics, have ever been particularly considered by the Society, and their endeavours have generally been, annually, attended with great advantages to the Public.

The loss of the great and gallant Lord Nelson, and of other naval officers, who have fallen sacrifices to the marks-men stationed in the tops of the enemy's ships, suggested to Captain Bagnold, R. M. the necessity of preventing such mischief; to obviate which, he has invented a gun and carriage, which admits of a proper elevation, and accurate aim, to be taken at the object, and by a discharge of 144 musket balls at every fire, to clear away the men in the enemy's rigging in close action.

The ingenious pump invented by Mr. William Brunton, will much facilitate the sinking of mines, and prevent many of the accidents to which the pumps heretofore employed for such purpose are liable.

The great advantages of taking accurate observations at sea, have been well considered by Mr. J. Allan, who was honored the former Session with a Gold Medal for his improvements

improvements in a Mathematical Dividing Engine. During the last session he has produced an Improved Reflecting Circle for nautical purposes, by which observations can be taken at sea with more facility and accuracy than heretofore, with an instrument not more expensive than the one in common use.

Mr. John Hodgson has invented a very simple mode of ascertaining the Variations in the Mariner's Compass, without having recourse to the minute and tedious calculations formerly necessary, and which instrument is also particularly useful in land surveying.

Henry Earle, Esq. has taken considerable pains in the construction of a bed, by the use of which, persons whose limbs have been dangerously fractured, or whose particular diseases will not allow them to be moved, without great danger of their lives, may enjoy the advantages of frequent changes of linen, and other comforts, which in common beds could not be obtained.

To prevent pain in the necessary operations of surgery is a very desirable object, and much of the pain experienced in the common modes of Scarification and cupping, is obviated by a Scarificator lately invented by Mr. Fuller, which executes the business with greater certainty and effect.

Improvements

Improvements in the art of clock and watch making, have been the source of great advantages to the mechanic arts. The Remontoire Escapement lately invented by Mr. George Prior, for pendulum clocks, will be much admired for the accuracy of its motion, performed with little or no friction.

The deleterious effects of mercurial vapours, when inhaled, during the operation of gilding metals, and on various other occasions, will be avoided by the use of a Mask invented by Mr. Richard Bridgen, which enables the operator to breathe fresh air without danger of the noxious fume before him. This machine is coming into very general use in the trade.

The method of pointing needles in the common way, has been represented to the Society as so dangerous, that the persons concerned in it seldom live more than eight or ten years, owing to consumptive complaints brought on by inspiring the small particles of iron and stone separated in grinding them. Mr. Thomas Wood has invented an expedient for executing this business in such a manner, as to obviate great part of this mischief, by the particles of stone and iron being caught and retained by wet cloths.

The great inconvenience arising from the Steam of Boilers  
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in wash-houses, brew-houses, and even in private families, has been very generally complained of; the contrivance of a Steam Chimney, by Mr. G. Webster, which prevents this evil, is simple, and presents several advantages.

The improvements made by Mr. John Prior, in the Striking part of a Clock evince great ingenuity, and the motions are performed with much ease and simplicity.

In the class of Colonies and Trade, it will be observed that the Society has continued its endeavours for promoting the methods of preparing British White Herrings, equal to the Dutch. Holland acquired the greatest part of her wealth from her fisheries; many hundreds of vessels have usually sailed from her ports to take and carry away fish which Providence had bountifully brought to our coasts. The herring fishery was regarded as the brightest and most valuable gem which Holland possessed, and the endeavours of this Society have been long directed to assist in placing it in the British Crown.

Great merit attaches to Mr. Francis Fortune, and Mr. Peter Sleavin, for preparing and producing to the Society excellent white herrings, the one from the German Ocean, the other from the Irish Sea.

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The processes employed by each of them, will be found minutely detailed, and the herrings prepared by both modes were acknowledged by several Dutch Merchants, to be of the first quality.

We have reason to expect that Mr. Fortune will proceed on a very extensive scale with that plan which he has so spiritedly begun.

The Society have received some valuable Communications from several of our Colonies abroad, which will be noticed in a future Volume.

In order that the Plates of the present Volume might be engraved in the very best manner, the Society have been induced to be at a greater expense for their execution than those of the same size in any former Volume.

For the information of the Members, a new edition of the Rules and Orders of the Society are added to the present Volume, that such alterations as have been made within the last five years may be more generally known.

The Society take this opportunity of making acknowledgements for the Presents they have lately received, and which will be found recorded in this Volume.

Their

Their Library has received a valuable addition of Books from Donations and purchase,

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THE necessity of placing the REPOSITORY of the Society's MODELS in a condition that would be creditable to themselves and more useful to the public, had been long impressed upon the minds of the Members, but the expense attending such an undertaking being very considerable, and likely to encroach too much on the funds of the Society, the matter remained suspended for some time, till the patriotic spirit of John Christian Curwen, Esq. suggested the propriety of a subscription in aid of the sum voted by the Society out of its general fund, and induced him, with his usual liberality, to contribute Five Guineas for the express purpose of the Improvement of the Repository, and to recommend the measure to be generally adopted by such individual Members as concurred with him in opinion on the advantages which would result from a better disposition of the Models.

His example was soon followed by many Members of the Society, amongst whom the Earl of Radnor, whose noble family hath ever been distinguished for an early, generous, and unremitting attention to the interest of the Society, presented Ten Pounds. The names of the Gentlemen who

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have at present subscribed are annexed. Subscriptions continue to be received by the Housekeeper, and Mr. Robert Elwin the Collector; and it may be confidently pronounced, that on the completion of the plan, no other part of Europe will be able to display so valuable and unique a Collection of Models; the gratuitous exhibition of which will be not only highly creditable to the Society, but an honor to the Nation, and of the utmost practical benefit to Agriculturists and Mechanics, by presenting to them, concentrated in one focus, the progress and result of human ingenuity, during upwards of half a century.

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<b>Amos, James, Esq.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Arbury, William, Esq.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
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b 2			Bennitt.

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## PREFACE.

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Wharton, Samuel, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Whitehead, William, Jun. Esq. ....	1	0	0
Wilkinson, Thomas, Jun. Esq. ....	1	1	0
Wilks, Robert, Esq. ....	1	1	0
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Wilson, Andrew, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Wilson, Thomas, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Wilson, Richard, Esq. VICE PRESIDENT....	1	1	0
Woodfall, George, Esq. ....	1	1	0
George Alexander, Esq. ....	0	10	6
William Brockeden, Esq. ....	0	10	6
Rev. Edmund Garden ....	0	10	6
Edward Matthews, Esq. ....	0	10	6
Robert Twycross, Esq. ....	0	10	6
C. A. Busby, Esq. ....	20	0	0
J. K. Hedges, Esq. Six Plates of Plate Glass			

The

The sum of Twenty Pounds, presented by Mr. Busby, arose from his professional charge to the Society as Architect, for the direction of the improvements in the Model Room, which he handsomely returned towards completing the object. The Plate Glass presented by Mr. Hedges is very valuable, and makes the new doors to the Model Room to correspond in appearance with those in the Society's Great Room. They contribute both to give light to the Hall of the Society, and afford a view of the Model Room from the principal entrance of the House.

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It is with great pleasure that we announce the flourishing state of the Society, the valuable additions of Models and Machines in the Repository, and of Books in the Library; probably no other Society with equal funds offers such extensive opportunities of patronage and knowledge to the Members, and of substantial advantages to the Public.

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*The Society desire it to be clearly understood, that as a body they are not responsible for any opinion or representation of facts contained in the following pages. They have endeavoured only to compress, into a form more concise, such accounts as appeared to them too diffuse when received.*

*Adelphi, London,*

*Feb. 29, 1812.*